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REMARKS - General

Applicants have hereby canceled claims 1-11, 13-20 and 22 from further consideration; have amended claims 12 and 21; and have added new claims 23-40. Thus claims 12, 21, and 23-40 are pending in this application.

The status of all claims and the text of all pending claims are shown above. In the changes made to the claims by the current amendment, ~~deletions are shown by strikethrough~~, and additions are underlined.

Discussion of Claim Rejection – 35 USC §112

The Examiner rejected claims 2, 13 and 15-22 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Claims 2, 13, 15-20, and 22 have been canceled. Claim 21 has been amended.

Discussion of Claims Rejections - 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-11, 13, 15-20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 1-11, 13-20 and 22 have been canceled from further consideration.

Discussion of Allowable Claims

Claims 12 and 21 have been rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, that include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Discussion of New Claims


Applicants have added new dependent claims 23-40 to vary the scope of protection and to protect other features of embodiments of the invention. The new claims are supported by the specification and drawings and no new matter has been introduced. The Examiner's consideration of the new claims is respectfully requested. New claims 23-40 are added as dependent claims directly or indirectly depending to the amended independent claim 12 or 21, which applicants submit for consideration.

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Conclusion and Conditional Request For Constructive Assistance

For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that claims are now in proper form, and that the claims all define patentably over the prior art. Therefore they submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action they respectfully solicit. If, for any reason, this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicants respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 706.03(d) and § 707.07(j) in order that the undersigned can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without the need for further proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,



Dominic M. Valdez applicant

12-9-05

Date